

Parise—a Prior Lake, MN, native—tied the game with under a minute to play. Sadly for us, Canada would end up scoring in overtime to win the gold medal. But that cannot take away from what was truly a golden performance by the Americans. Jamie Langenbrunner, from Cloquet, did a stand-up job as captain, leading and pulling together a team that also included Minnesotans Erik Johnson, from Bloomington, and David Backes, from Blaine.

The American women's ice hockey team was expected to be great. And they were. Before falling to Canada, they had outscored their opponents 40–2. With Edina native Natalie Darwitz as captain, as well as Jenny Potter from Edina and Gigi Marvin from Warroad, they brought home a well-earned silver medal.

And of the 12 members of the U.S. Olympic curling team, 8 are from Minnesota. Natalie Nicholson of Bemidji and Allison Pottinger of Eden Prairie were on the women's team. The men's team was an all-Minnesota affair with John Shuster and Jason Smith of Chisholm, Chris Plys and Jeff Isaacson of Duluth and John Benton of St. Michael. Even their coach, Phil Drobnick is from Eveleth, MN.

Tony Benshoof of White Bear Lake is an Olympic luger. Kaylin Richardson of Edina was in her second Olympics, competing in alpine skiing. Wynn Roberts of Battle Lake was a competitor in the biathlon. Rebekah Bradford of Apple Valley is an Olympic speedskater. And Caitlin Compton and Garrett Kuzzy, each of Minneapolis, competed in cross-country skiing.

And there are many other Olympic athletes, like Lindsey Vonn, who have strong Minnesota ties but reside now in other States—which have mountains.

Yesterday marked the end of the 2010 Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver. I am so proud to see that there were more athletes in this year's Olympics from Minnesota than from any other State. Twenty-one Minnesotans took part in these games. Most were in their first Olympics. A few others were in their second Games. Natalie Darwitz has been to three. Jenny Potter has now been to four, winning a medal every time. Isn't that something—four-time medal-winning Olympian and mother of two.

Twenty-one athletes from all over Minnesota who now will be going back to tending a bar or being a teacher or being an engineer or a mom. Natalie Nicholson will return to Red Lake Indian Reservation as a nurse practitioner. The men's ice hockey players will be going back to finish the National Hockey League season. John Shuster will be getting married. All will continue to inspire us.

I congratulate every single one of these competitors. Each has shown tremendous grit and determination to earn a place representing our Nation at these Winter Olympics. Whether you won a medal, or simply gave it your all

and competed, each of you is a champion.

Olympians make the children of our State and Nation dream of what they might do, and grownups like me dream of what we wish we could do, all while fulfilling their dreams on the world's stage and representing our Nation admirably. We owe them thanks for their hard work, their perseverance, and most of all their heart. And I hope I have the chance in the coming weeks to meet with each of these Minnesota athletes so I can congratulate them in person.

RECOGNIZING JESSE WHITE TUMBLERS

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I rise to congratulate a well-loved Chicago institution on a landmark anniversary.

For 50 years, the Jesse White Tumblers troupe has delighted audiences in Illinois and beyond and opened doors of opportunity for thousands of young people.

Jesse White, the man who gave the team its name, is probably best known today as Illinois' secretary of state and the first African American ever elected to statewide office in the "Land of Lincoln."

As a child, Jesse White was studious and well behaved. He was also a phenomenal athlete. His passion for sports won him a scholarship to Alabama State University, where he was all-conference in baseball and basketball for all 4 years.

After college, Jesse White served 2 years in the U.S. Army as a paratrooper.

Then sports opened another door for him. Jesse White was able to fulfill what for many of us is only a dream. He played professional baseball for the Chicago Cubs Triple-A farm team.

Returning to Chicago after his baseball days, Jesse White decided to become a Chicago Public Schools teacher. He also worked nights as a physical education teacher for the Chicago Park District.

In 1959, the park district asked him to create an acrobatic show. The result was so impressive that the troupe began performing on a regular basis. Its mission was—and remains—to keep children in school, off of drugs, and out of gangs in the Chicago area. And it has been a huge success.

A half century later, more than 11,000 young people have participated in the Jesse White Tumblers. Becoming a Jesse White Tumbler is no easy task. Thousands of young people apply every year but only a fraction are chosen. To make the team, members must stay in school and maintain at least a C average. They have to obey the law and stay out of gangs and away from drugs and alcohol. In exchange, the young athletes get to experience the excitement and glory of performing before appreciative fans. They also receive tutoring and college scholarship opportu-

nities, performance fees, and a chance to travel and perform around the world.

The power of the Jesse White Tumblers to transform young lives and open new doors may be best illustrated by the story of three brothers. They performed together with the Tumblers, but at some point they decided together to drop out and join a gang. One of the brothers was murdered by a rival gang. The second brother, seeking to avenge his brother's death, killed an innocent man by mistake and ended up going to jail for murder. Instead of following in his brothers' footsteps, the third brother decided to rejoin the Jesse White Tumblers. The direction and discipline he received helped him not only avoid the pitfalls of his siblings but helped him earn a college education and eventually a law degree from the University of Notre Dame.

Multiply that story hundreds or even thousands of times and you begin to understand the importance of the Jesse White Tumblers.

The Jesse White Tumblers have earned their reputation as an icon in the State of Illinois. The program has done wonders, and I wish it another 50 years of continued success.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS OFFICE IN JAKARTA, INDONESIA

Mr. LUGAR. Madam President, as my colleagues are aware, the Library of Congress, LOC, diligently works to keep the Congress fully informed on a plethora of issues. Today I would like to highlight the important work of a component of the LOC that is less known to colleagues, and that is its operation in Southeast Asia. The work of this regional operation immensely contributes to U.S. understanding of Southeast Asia, the Pacific Islands, China and India, thereby facilitating our foreign policy objectives.

The LOC office is one of six overseas offices operated by the Overseas Operations Division of the LOC. Staff to the overseas offices "acquire, catalog, preserve and distribute library and research materials . . . and provide assistance to the U.S. Congress."

For too many Americans, Southeast Asia is a distant unknown. In reality, the region is of significant economic importance to the American people. The approximately 580-million citizens—and consumers—of the 10 nations comprising the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, ASEAN, represent the fourth largest market for American exports.

Based in Jakarta, the mission of the LOC regional operation is diverse. Primary among its responsibilities is to provide research and information services to the U.S. Congress and the Congressional Research Service. Jakarta LOC staff also manage the Cooperative Acquisitions Program, CAPSEA, whereby they acquire materials from countries in the region on behalf of the LOC and member institutions, which

include 30 U.S. research libraries and 10 international research libraries.

It is important to note the ongoing, extensive assistance the Senate Foreign Relations Committee receives from the Jakarta LOC office. Research and preparation for committee projects on issues ranging from global food security, to international trade, non-proliferation, the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, EITI, counter-terrorism and human trafficking, have been augmented by the diligent efforts of LOC staff in Jakarta and elsewhere in the region.

The Jakarta LOC office ensures that the U.S. Congress and the Congressional Research Service have up-to-date legal and legislative regional information, and it assists other U.S. Government agencies in providing and sharing open source information as well as acquiring publications.

The Jakarta LOC office has also worked with the House Democracy Partnership, HDP, and The Asia Foundation to create a legislative library for the National Parliament of Timor-Leste and to train the library staff, and is cooperating with the HDP to develop a parliamentary research service and an improved information technology system there.

Indonesia is a young democracy. Its Parliament is confronted with many challenges, including the development of its own operational and staff infrastructure. The LOC office in Jakarta serves as a bridge facilitating communications and meetings between the staff of the U.S. Congress and the Indonesian Parliament. Our counterparts in the Indonesian Parliament have expressed appreciation for this initiative.

In conclusion, I am grateful for the assistance provided to the U.S. Senate by the Southeast Asia LOC office, and wanted to take this opportunity to openly convey my appreciation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING SAM HAMILTON

• Mr. NELSON of Florida. Madam President, I speak today to commemorate the life of a true friend of Florida, Mr. Sam Hamilton, who passed away on Saturday. In September of last year, Mr. Hamilton became the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. That was a fitting position for a man who had dedicated 30 years to protecting the Nation's natural resources and wildlife.

Long before he was Director of Fish and Wildlife, Mr. Hamilton was committed to this country's wild spaces. Just last month, I was fortunate enough to attend the groundbreaking ceremony for an Everglades restoration project called the Picayune Strand, and Mr. Hamilton was there. It was a proud day for us all, but certainly for a man who had worked so long on Everglades issues and knew how much this project would benefit the endangered

Florida panther. On that unusually cold morning, he spoke about his experience in the Youth Conservation Corps at 15 years old in Mississippi and how that molded his dedication to wildlife conservation. Mr. Hamilton started his career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Texas. He moved up the ranks to become the southeast region's director based in Atlanta.

During his time in Atlanta, he oversaw the Service's role in restoring the Everglades ecosystem. He took the Service's role of advising Federal agencies with regard to the Endangered Species Act seriously. He knew the ins and outs of the Apalachicola-Chatahoochee-Flint River Basin, and worked to protect the threatened and endangered species that call that system home, like the gulf sturgeon and the purple bankclimber mussel.

Mr. Hamilton was an avid fisher and hunter, and this gave him perspective on how to work with people from different backgrounds towards a common goal of conserving America's wildlife and the habitat that sustains it. I know that I echo my friends at the Department of the Interior like Secretary Ken Salazar and the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Tom Strickland when I say that Mr. Hamilton will be sorely missed and his great contributions to my state and the country at large will not be forgotten. And to his family: wife Becky, sons Sam Jr. and Clay, and grandson Davis, you are in our thoughts during this difficult time. Thank you for helping your husband, father, and grandfather to serve this country. •

TRIBUTE TO KATHERINE PATERSON

• Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I wish to acknowledge the lifetime work and recent achievements of Katherine Paterson of Barre, VT. Recently, Ms. Paterson was named National Ambassador for Young People's Literature by the Librarian of Congress James H. Billington.

Katherine Paterson's accomplishments as an author surely merit her appointment. She has twice been awarded the prestigious Newbery Medal, once for "Bridge to Terabithia" and a second time for "Jacob Have I Loved." In addition, she won the National Book Award, also twice, for "The Great Gilly Hopkins" and "The Master Puppeteer." Nor are these the only major recognitions of her importance as one of the major writers of our time. She has won 19 additional literary awards for other works, including the Hans Christian Andersen Medal, the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award and the Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts, which was awarded to her by her home State of Vermont.

Katherine Paterson was named a Living Legend by the Library of Congress in 2000.

Her most recent book is "The Day of the Pelican," a moving, dramatic story

of a refugee family's flight from war-torn Kosovo to America. It is the 2010 selection for Vermont Reads, a statewide reading program.

Katherine Paterson has long been dedicated to promoting literacy among young people, which makes her appointment as National Ambassador for Young People's Literature particularly appropriate. She has chosen "Read for Your Life" as the theme for her platform for the upcoming 2 years as National Ambassador. Throughout her tenure, she will be a most articulate advocate for the importance of literature in young people's lives.

We in Vermont are proud of Katherine Paterson's accomplishments as a writer. We are proud of her dedication to literacy among young readers. And, at this moment, we are proud that our national library, the Library of Congress, has conferred upon her this new honor, and the enlarged task of being the Nation's leading advocate for young people's literature. •

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

PROPOSED CONSTITUTION FOR THE VIRGIN ISLANDS—PM 47

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the requirements of Public Law 94-584 (the "Act"), I hereby transmit to the Congress a proposed constitution for the United States Virgin Islands (USVI). The constitution, drafted by the Fifth Constitutional Convention of the United States Virgin Islands, was submitted to me on December 31, 2009, by Governor John P. deJongh, United States Virgin Islands. In submitting the proposed constitution, Governor deJongh expressed his concerns about several provisions of the proposed constitution, but he also expressed his hope that the people of the United States Virgin Islands continue to "move ahead towards [their] goal of increased local governmental autonomy."

The Act requires that I submit this proposed constitution to the Congress,